

Emerging Middle Class in sub-Saharan Africa & Economic Implications



Project Title	Emerging Middle Class in sub-Saharan Africa & Economic Implications
Project Summary	The project seeks to explore the emerging trends in middle-class in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and its impacts on investments, trade and economic growth and poverty in the continent.
Country	United States

Project Description

Economic growth in the developing world in the past two decades has helped reduce poverty and increase the size of the middle class. In addition to the impacts on poverty and inequality, a growing middle class will also stimulate growth in demands for consumer goods and a host of services sector outputs. These in turn could result in increased private investment-including US private sector investment, international trade, employment generation and host of other secondary economic impacts.

In this context, this research will explore the trends in size of the middle class in SSA in relation to the significant economic growth in the sub-continent. It will compare the growth of middle class in SSA vis-à-vis the trends in other regions of the developing world and test the hypothesis that middle class growth path in SSA is comparable to those in other regions of the developing world. An increasing size of the middle class could trigger a second wave of economic growth and poverty reduction in SSA. This research will explore the impact of growth in middle class on economic growth and poverty reduction. It will also analyze the impacts of a growing middle class market on private investment, employment and other economic impacts. The expected results will inform policies for promoting economic growth and poverty reduction. It will also inform opportunities for U.S. private investment in context of a growing middle class market.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Analytical writing

Data analysis

Economic analysis

Research

Additional Information

A student with good analytical skills and expertise in econometric methods will be ideal for the proposed project. Logical thinking and writing skills will also be a plus.

Language Requirements

None